(क) देश में कोयले पर आधारित विद्युत संयंत्र कितने हैं ;

(ख) कितने विद्युत संयंत्रों में प्रदूषण नियंत्रण उपस्कर उपलब्ध हैं ;

(ग) ऐसे विद्युत संयंत्र, जिनके पास प्रदूषण नियंत्रण के उपकरण नहीं हैं; वातावरण में प्रतिवर्ष कितनी राख फैलाते हैं;

(घ) क्या यह सच है कि संयंत्रों से निकली राख (फ्लाईएश) के कारण संयंत्रों के चारों ओर 25 कि. मी. के दायरे में वनस्पति और मानव जीवन को खतरा पैदा हो रहा है ;

(ङ) क्या सरकार ने इस समस्या का अध्ययन किया है और यदि हां तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(च) क्या सरकार का प्रदूषण फैलाने वाले विद्युत संयंत्रों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही करने का विचार है और यदि हां तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमलनाथ) : (क) से (ग) देश में कोयले पर आधारित विद्युत संयंत्रों की संख्या 70 है। इनमें से, 25 संयंत्रों ने अभिवार्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण उपकरण लगा लिए हैं। शेष संयंत्रों को अपेक्षित प्रदूषण नियंत्रण उपकरण लगाने का एक समयबद्ध कार्यक्रम दिया गया है। ऐसा अनुमान है कि ताप विद्युत संयंत्रों से लगभग 6.7 मिलियन टन फ्लाईऐश उत्सर्जित होता है जो उत्सर्जन सीमाओं का पालन नहीं कर रहे हैं।

(घ) और (ङ) इस संबंध में कोई विशेष अध्ययन नहीं किया गया है।

(च) सरकार ने दिनांक 12 फरवरी, 1992 को एक अधिसूचना जारी की जिस के अनुसार उन सभी ताप विद्युत संयंत्रों, जो 16 मई, 1981 से पहले स्थापित किए गए थे, को दिसम्बर, 1993 तक निर्धारित मानकों का अनुपालन करने के लिए प्रदूषण नियंत्रण उपकरण मुहैया कराने हैं। जो संयंत्र मई, 1981 के बाद स्थापित किए गए हैं, उन्हें दिसम्बर, 1992 तक वायु प्रदूषण नियंत्रण उपकरण मुहैया कराने हैं।

Growth of flora and fauna in the country

2063. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that flora and fauna of the country which is an indispensable part have of the indigenous system of medicine is likely to be extinct by the year 2000 AD; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking at present and propose to take to reserve and promote the growth of country in flora and fauna to meet the medicine and environmental needs of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) The depletion of flora and fauna in the country is a known fact which has been going on for a long time and is certainly a matter of concern. However, there is no scientific evidence that the flora and fauna of the country would become extinct by 2000 A.D.

(b) A number of steps have been taken to preserve and promote the growth of flora and fauna in the country, which include the following :—

(1) Extensive survey for identification of threatened and endangered species ;

(2) Establishment of a network of protected areas including National Parks, Sanctuaries, Biosphere Reserves and Preservation Plots ;

(3) Launching of secial projects for protection of Tigers, Rhinos and Crocodiles ;

(4) Initiation of schemes for conservation of mangroves and wetlands including coral reefs ;

(5) Ex-situ conservation of endangered species in botanical gardens to ensure survival of these species under captive conditions for their future restoration in the wild ;

(6) Development of protocols for multiplication of some of the endangered medicinal plants through tissue culture ;

(7) Setting up of National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research ;

(8) Assistance to Government/ semi-Government organisations in States/UTs for cultivation and development of identified species of medicinal plants ;

(9) Enforcement of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to prevent the diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes ;

(10) Regulation and prohibition of trade and commerce in endangered species of flora and fauna under the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Specils of Fauna and Flora (CITES) ;

(11) Enforcement of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which, after the amendment in 1991, includes endangered plants and which now provides strict penalities for infringement ;

(12) Extensive afforestation under the Wastelands Development scheme ;

(13) Promoting the use of non-conventional sources of energy in the degraded areas of forests; and,

(14) Launching of public awareness campaigns.

Ecological imbalance caused by denuding forests

2064. SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) what steps have been taken/ proposed to be taken to off set the ecological imbalance caused by denuding forests ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Cherapunji which records world's highest average rainfall in a year lies barren because of very high degree of soil erosion due to heavy rainfall ; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to redeem back the land in Cherapuniji, so that one again thick forest could come up to cover the barren peaks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Various steps taken by Govt. of India to off-set the ecological imbalance caused by denudation of forests are :

(1) The National Forest Policy, 1988 lays emphasis on environmental stability & maintenance of ecological balance. The derivation of direct economic benefit must be subordinated to this principal aim. Besides, there are specific provisions to regulate grazing, control of fire and encroachment.

(2) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was enacted to check indiscriminate diversion of forest lands for non-forestry purposes. The Act has been made more stringent by an amendment in 1988.

(3) The Government of India have been providing Central assistance to State Govts. for conserva-